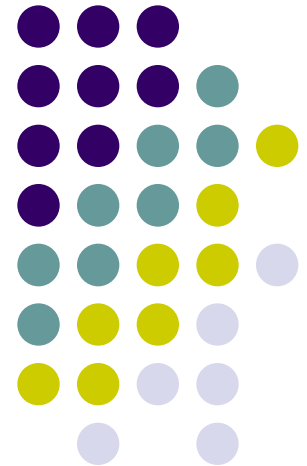


An Introduction to Mental Health Issues

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Mental Health throughout Life Conference
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The Human Condition



- We are:
 - physical
 - emotional
 - social
 - spiritual
 - These dimensions of who we are inter-penetrate.
 - influenced by our genetic inheritance
 - influenced by the social determinants of health
 - vulnerable
 - creative

Ethical Issues associated with Mental Health



i. **Overcoming stigma**

- “Whoever suffers from mental illness ‘always’ bears God’s image and likeness in himself [or herself], as does every human being. In addition, he [or she] ‘always’ has the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God... but also to be treated as such...” (John Paul II, 16 January 1997)
- Human dignity

ii. **Right to Health Care**

- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 25,1

iii. **Holistic Care**

- e.g. pastoral care groups at St John of God Pinelodge Clinic

Ethical Issues associated with Mental Health



iv. **Compulsory Assessment and Treatment**

- sometimes necessary
- last resort
- rights of patients must be respected
- getting the balance right is not easy

v. **Participation**

- the goal cannot be only that people are no longer unwell
- the goal must be that people are truly alive, participating in:
 - meaningful work (voluntary or paid)
 - economic life
 - social life
 - cultural and political life